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Remarks/arguments:

In response to the office action of November 17, 2005, the claims of the application have been amended to more clearly set forth the subject matter of the invention. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to set forth a handgrip which is referred to in claims 11 and 17. Also, the spelling of "hand grip" in claim 17 has been changed to --handgrip-- for consistency purposes. Other changes have also been made so that the invention is more clearly set forth as will be pointed out below.

Turning now to the examiner's rejection: In ¶1 the drawings have been objected to. It is noted that the drawings show a plurality of electrical supply connectors 48. However, it should be noted that the claims referred to contacts. This has been corrected by the present amendment. The examiner has also requested that the multiple branch receptacle be shown. This is shown at 54. As the features identified by the examiner are already shown in the drawings, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the requirement for corrected drawings.

The examiner continues to object to the amendment filed 6/20/2005 because it allegedly introduces new matter. It is submitted that the examiner is in error. Clearly the text may be amended to add material claimed and shown in the drawings and such additions do not constitute new matter. In the last response it was pointed out that the drawings show that the modules may be assembled in different pairings - compare FIGS. 1, 2, and 3. In FIG. 1 the modules 10 and 22 are shown assembled, in FIG. 2 the modules 10 and 24 are shown assembled, and in FIG. 3 the modules 24, 30, 22, and 10 are shown assembled. While some reference numerals have been omitted in the various figures, as for example 22 in FIG. 3, clearly the various assemblies are illustrated. Thus, the added text, which is supported by the claims and the drawings, is clearly not new matter. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this grounds of rejection.

The examiner in ¶3 objects to claim 17. This has been corrected by the amendment to claim 1 which now sets forth a handgrip.

The examiner in ¶ 4 states that the claims are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation, and then precedes to reject claims on WO 01/60280 taking the position that a plurality of modules are shown in FIG. 10 of the reference. Applicant disagrees with the examiner's interpretation of figure 10 of the reference. This figure is an electrical schematic and shows among other things 3 batteries 14 and 4 regulating circuits 17. These are not modules. A module is typically defined as a "separable component, frequently one that is

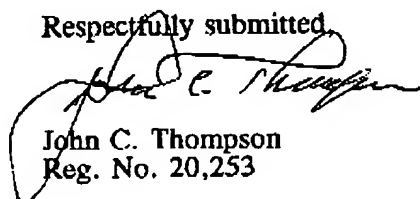
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interchangeable with other, for assembling into units of differing size, complexity, or function." (Random House Webster's College Dictionary) FIG. 10 further shows "subdivisées en modules élémentaires 16." While modules are referred to in the text of the reference, these are not modules in the sense used in this application. However, to more clearly distinguish, claim 1 has been further amended to set forth that there is a hand-held module (10) provided with a handgrip (14) and at least two or more additional modules that are interchangeable with each other and for assembly into the handheld module. This combination of features is clearly not shown in the reference. While the reference does show a handheld unit 1 and a base 14A, it does not show at least two or more additional modules which may be used with the hand held module. Additionally, while it shows the equivalent of a data port at 26 in FIG. 9 or in FIGS. 14 and 15, it should be noted that it does not show a data bus and a plurality of electrical supply connectors provided between at least two modules. Accordingly, as the reference clearly does not teach the subject matter of claim 1, the withdrawal of the rejection based on the WO reference is respectfully requested. The addition of Wagner et al does not make up the defects of the WO reference. Accordingly as all claims depend from allowable claim 1, the allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

During a conversation with the examiner it was noted that she can read French. Therefore, only a computer based translation of the WO reference is being provided, which translation contains many errors. However, as the gist of the subject matter is readily apparent from the computer based translation, a further translation is not being provided.

A prompt allowance of this application for the reasons advanced above is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Thompson
Reg. No. 20,253

69 Grayton Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

(716) 832-9447
Facsimile: (716) 832-9392